

FLD ~~230~~
230

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

25X1

25X1A

COUNTRY	Austria/East Germany	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	USIA Trade Transactions	DATE DISTR.	3 November 1953
	25X1A	NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

25X1

25X1X

1. During August and September 1953, the USIA-controlled Vienna Bridge Building and Iron Construction Company (Wiener Brückenbau und Eisenkonstruktionen A.G.), Hardtmuthgasse 131-135, Vienna X, purchased from the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOEST), Linz, steel and iron valued at approximately 8,000,000 schillings. The purchase was financed through the Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Vienna.
2. Since 1 January 1953 the Central Commercial Bureau (Kaufmännisches Zentralbüro) of USIA has concluded compensation deals with the East German Deutsche Warenvertriebsgesellschaft, valued at approximately \$ 1,000,000. 1/ East Germany delivers such goods as sewing machines, bicycles, radio tubes and coal. All business is handled on a contractual basis through the Deutsche Notenbank, East Berlin. 2/

25X1A 1 Comment: The Deutsche Warenvertriebsgesellschaft is subordinate to the SED Central Committee and is engaged in unofficial or illegal trade transactions with western countries.

25X1X 2 Comment: Informal barter between the two countries has been carried on since 1947. Compensation transactions based on legal contracts were instituted two years ago, and the accounting is done on a dollar basis.

SECRET

25X1

STATE	#x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC				
-------	----	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--